

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

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HOA

HOA

GOOD HEALTH

HAS ITS REWARDS

HEALTH
OPPORTUNITY
ACCOUNTS

HEALTH OPPORTUNITY ACCOUNTS

The Health Opportunity Account

A Health Opportunity Account (HOA) is a new Medicaid option that rewards you for smart decisions about your health care. The HOA allows you to manage your own health care spending and set aside money to be used when you no longer need Medicaid.

If you choose to start an HOA, Medicaid will create an account for you with \$2,500 for each Medicaid eligible adult and \$1,000 for each Medicaid eligible child. You will use the money in the account when you or your children seek medical services covered by Medicaid.

Benefits of having a Medicaid HOA:

- When you or your child get preventive care, such as an adult physical or child's well care or immunization visit, no money will be taken from your account.
- When you are no longer eligible for Medicaid, you can keep most of the money left in the account to spend on education, job training or medical expenses.
- You will receive a monthly statement about your account along with tips on how to stay healthy and how to manage your account.

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How can I get an HOA?

HOA's are only available to residents of Richland County who have been eligible for Medicaid for at least three months.

What happens if I spend all the money in the account?

If the account is exhausted, you will be responsible for an out-of-pocket cost—called a deductible—for medical services (no more than \$250 for an adult, \$100 for a child). After you have paid the deductible, you will still receive Medicaid benefits but not through an HOA.

Can I withdraw cash from my HOA?

No. The money in an active HOA is only used to pay for Medicaid covered services.

How will I know how much money is left in my account?

You will get a monthly statement, called an Explanation of Benefits, that details your health care expenses. You also have access to a toll-free hotline where you can speak with an HOA expert about your account.

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What happens at the time of my annual eligibility review?

If you choose to keep your HOA, Medicaid will make a new deposit in your account for the year. Any money you had left over from the previous year will carry over.

What happens if my Medicaid stops?

If you become ineligible for Medicaid, you can use most of the money left in your HOA and spend it on education, job training or other medical expenses.

What happens if I just decide I don't want to be in the HOA program anymore?

The HOA is closed out and the money remains the property of Medicaid. Your regular Medicaid benefits will continue as long as you are eligible.

How do I sign up?

Call 1-888-549-0820 to enroll.

HOA